

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Paragraph 0025 has been rewritten to clarify the "COAT(S)" as found in Fig. 1. It is believed that the objection to the drawing has been fully clarified and it is submitted that the drawing objection should be withdrawn.

The comments pertaining to the Abstract, found on page 3 of the Office Action, paragraph 4 and the following paragraph, are not understood. The Abstract was rewritten in Amendment B to remove the offensive terms and contains less than 150 words. The offensive "disclosed" was replaced by "shown." See also the "REMARKS" portion of Amendment B. Clarification is requested.

Paragraph 0046 has been amended to clarify the "MYLAR" objection.

Paragraph 0049 has also been amended to overcome the Examiner's objection to "relatively flexible" and "relatively inflexible." If the addition to paragraph 0049 is not acceptable to the Examiner, suggestions for acceptable definitions would be sincerely appreciated.

The newly cited references of record have been carefully considered, and they are not deemed any more pertinent than the art cited prior to the Appeal. Accordingly, no changes have been made to the claims.

Also, in view of the reopening of the prosecution and the new grounds of rejection, it is believed that the originally cited art rejections have been withdrawn. Accordingly, only the newly cited art will be discussed.

In spite of the Examiner's ignoring the claim preamble, there is a distinct difference between a bedliner for a vehicle and a medallion!

The Kamiya et al patent comprises a three inch by two inch medallion for a vehicle, not a bedliner. The medallion or decorative article includes three layers, but except for the middle layer (referred to as the base layer), the top and bottom layers are themselves multilayered! See Fig. 4 and column 3, lines 17-67 and continuing on column 4.

Kamiya et al's base layer 4 is between the top decorative layer and the bottom or lower adhesive layer. The lower adhesive layer includes a bottom release liner 8 and a double sided tape layer 5A.

The base layer 4, an elastic resin sheet, is then disposed on the double sided tape layer 5A. Note that nowhere in the Kamiya et al patent is there a mention that the elastic resin sheet comprises or may comprise a foam layer. As a matter of fact, a foam layer would be totally inconsistent, given the dimensions of the various layers.

The upper decorative layer includes a bottom adhesive coating 5, a protective coating 6, a discontinuous glossy metal thin film layer 3, and then a resin film 2 on top

of the metal thin film layer 3. A color ink coating 9 is then disposed on the resin film 2, and a clear coating 10 is disposed on both the resin film layer 2 and the color coating 9.

That structure is very, very different from the present invention!!!

Moreover, the contention of the Examiner that "an elastic resin sheet such as polyurethane resin" may be considered as a foam is respectfully traversed. The terms are not synonymous.

Finally, note that the Kamiya et al medallion includes a "microscopically discontinuous pattern" for a bendable structure for bending on a vehicle hood through a few degrees. This is certainly not the structure of the present invention, regardless of how one defines "relatively flexible" and "relatively inflexible."

The addition of the Okada et al patent does nothing for Kamiya et al. The Okada et al patent deals with printing on a curved surface, and it is not at all concerned with a bedliner for a vehicle. A "flexible membrane" has nothing to do with a finished product, it is merely part of a process of transfer printing, completely inapposite to the present invention, and it is respectfully submitted completely inappropriate for combining with Kamiya et al!

The Sada et al patent is likewise deemed inapposite to the present invention and to the Kamiya et al medallion! Sada et al concerns the painting of cars with different types of paint. Multiple layers of paint are used to produce different hues which vary according to the viewing angle. This has nothing whatever to do with a vehicle bedliner.

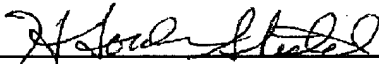
The Spain patent refers to automotive paint, and the Chen patent refers to wall paper and floor coverings. Neither has anything to do with the present invention.

None of the references cited by the Examiner is even remotely directed to a bedliner for a vehicle. None of the patents either suggests or teaches, singly or in combination, structure for a vehicle bedliner which includes at least three layers, a base layer, a patterned layer, and a clear layer through which the patterned layer may be viewed.

It follows that claims 21-27, the claims under consideration, are allowable, and an indication of such allowability is respectfully urged.

Respectfully submitted,

RAYMOND ZAPPE, Applicant

By 
H. Gordon Shields,
Attorney of Record

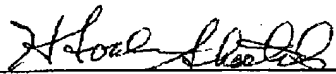
HGS:jg
Phoenix, Arizona
(602) 995-0490

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Examiner: HILARY GUTMAN
Group: 3612
Fax No: (703) 305-3597

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